

**CLARK LIBRARY ANNEX-COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 217 SOUTH MAIN STREET, 3rd FLOOR,
LOCKHART, TEXAS**

Council present:

Councilmember Juan Mendoza
Councilmember Kara McGregor
Councilmember Brad Westmoreland

Mayor Lew White
Councilmember Derrick David Bryant
Councilmember Jeffry Michelson
Mayor Pro-Tem Angie Gonzales-Sanchez (arrived at 7:12 p.m.)

Staff present:

Steven Lewis, City Manager
Monte Akers, City Attorney
Sean Kelley, Public Works Director
Mike Kamerlander, Economic Development Dir.

Connie Constancio, City Secretary
Miles Smith, Public Information Officer
Pam Larison, Finance Director

Citizens/Visitors Addressing the Council: Hector Rangel, Caldwell County Emergency Management Coordinator; and, Darlon Sojak, Municipal Court Presiding Judge.

Work Session 6:30 p.m.

Mayor White opened the work session and advised the Council, staff and the audience that staff would provide information and explanations about the following items:

Mayor White requested Hector Rangel, Caldwell County Emergency Management Coordinator to provide an update about the pandemic. Mr. Rangel gave an update about the number of COVID-19 cases in Caldwell County. He suggested that everyone continue to wear face coverings and to continue following social distancing.

PRESENTATION ONLY

A. UPDATE REGARDING THE USE OF CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT FUNDS FOR UTILITY BILL SUPPORT AND BUSINESS LOANS.

Ms. Larison stated that staff proposes to utilize CARES funding for 1) Utility relief to citizens that qualify; 2) Public health expenses associated with utility payments; and, 3) Local business support. On July 30, 2020, the City of Lockhart received the initial 20% funding from CARES Act funds in the amount of \$152,779. The total funds available were \$763,895. The process in which the City of Lockhart's allocation was determined by \$55/per capita.

Ms. Larison provided information regarding the utility relief program and public health expense.

UTILITY RELIEF PROGRAM

Staff is proposing that the City participate in the Utility Relief Program to assist citizens with utility bill payments. The following is a list of the utility program's qualifying expenses:

- Utility Relief Program would be a category 5. Category 5 allows for 25% of spent CARES funds to cover the program expenses.
- Currently, the City has applied the non-disconnection on utility accounts during the public health emergency. Now the CARES program will allow the City of Lockhart to set up a program to help citizens with utility payment relief for the months of March, April, and May.
- The current past due amount for this 3-month period is approximately \$11,695.

There was discussion regarding the utility program guidelines. Required documentation to be eligible for utility program assistance are: 1) proof of income or pay reduction; or, 2) Proof of approved unemployment claim; or, 3) Letter from employer confirming business closure, layoff, or reduction in pay due to COVID-19.

PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENSE

Payment Kiosks are a utility qualifying expense as a public health expense along with the implementation of a toll-free number to make automated payments over the phone.

Mr. Kamerlander provided information regarding the Economic Development COVID-19 Economic Relief Fund.

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT

COVID-19 Economic Relief Fund Update

- 21 total applicants.
- COVID fund was seeded with approximately \$235,000 from the City's Revolving Loan Fund.
- \$112,500 of loans have been requested.
- \$100,000 of loans have been issued since April.
- \$12,500 in outstanding applications.
- \$25,000 in COVID-19 grants were awarded to 10 Lockhart businesses.

Proposed COVID-19 Economic Relief Fund Loan Forgiveness

- \$100,000 worth of loans have been issued with a promissory note with repayment over 3 years beginning on October 1, 2020 at 0% interest.
- CARES Act money can be used to forgive these loans and turn them into grants.
- This would have a big impact on the 17 businesses that have received loans.
- The \$100,000 in CARES Act money is a one-time expense.

Proposed COVID-19 Economic Relief Grant Program

- Use the funds to create a new COVID-19 Grant Program which would be similar to the grants already funded by Caldwell County and the City of Lockhart in May.
- Smaller in size: \$2,500-5,000.
- No Payback required.
- More businesses can access these funds and more will be helped in Lockhart.

Mayor White suggested that staff return with recommendations on how many funds are available to use towards the programs and to generate a grant program for the local businesses.

There was discussion regarding the availability of FEMA and CARES Act funds.

DISCUSSION ONLY

A. DISCUSS MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF JULY 21, 2020.

Mayor White requested corrections to the minutes. There were none.

B. DISCUSS ADDENDUM TO LEASE WITH CALDWELL COUNTY CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (CCCM) TO ADD PORTIONS OF THE BUILDING AT 901 BOIS D'ARC STREET FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER TO THEIR CURRENT LEASE FOR A DURATION OF TWO YEARS.

Mr. Kelley stated that the CCCM requested to expand the space that they currently lease at 901 Bois D'Arc Street to include the space formally known as the Technology Center. Due to the recent pandemic, CCCM has seen a large increase in families using their valuable services along with expanding to more outreach programs. CCCM's most significant challenges regarding this growth involve trying to maintain social distancing, available space for the increase in products and space/storage for the new programming. This additional 1,500 square feet in space would increase CCCM's total space by 37%, which would assist CCCM to better serve those suffering from food insecurity to our community. If approved, the terms of the proposed addendum to CCCM's lease agreement would be set to expire April 30, 2022. CCCM would have the right to renew this lease for an additional term of one year provided they give the City a 30-day notice of their intent to renew prior to the lease's expiration. Mr. Kelley recommended approval. There was discussion.

C. DISCUSS 3RD QUARTER INVESTMENT REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

Ms. Larison stated that the Texas Public Funds Investment Act requires local governments to review and accept Quarterly Investment Reports for each quarterly reporting period of the year. The 3rd Quarter for Fiscal Year 2020 ended June 30, 2020. She provided explanation and there was brief discussion regarding the following:

- Quarterly Investment Report ending June 30, 2020.
- Investment Portfolio Summary.
- Cash Accounts.
- Marketable Securities Transaction Summary.
- Investment Pool Transactions Summary.
- Certificates of Deposit Transaction Summary.
- Investment Pools.
- Bank Collateralization.

D. DISCUSS THE ANNUAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$148,960 OF WHICH \$62,879.63 IS FOR THE 238 CITY OF LOCKHART RADIOS TO COVER MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS, AND REPLACEMENT OF THE 700/800 MHZ RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM WHICH SUPPORTS RADIO COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LOCKHART, CONCESSIONS GROUP, CALDWELL COUNTY, CITY OF LULING, AND CITY OF MARTINDALE FROM OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 WITH EACH ENTITY PAYING ITS SHARE OF THE COSTS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF RADIOS USING THE SYSTEM ACCORDING TO THE EXISTING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND APPOINTING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE CONTRACT AGREEMENT. THE AMOUNT REFLECTED IS THE ANNUAL CONTRACTED 3% INCREASE DUE TO CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

Ms. Larison stated that the City of Lockhart and Caldwell County have more than \$1 million in radio communication equipment. This system provides radio communication capabilities for the City of Lockhart, Caldwell County, City of Luling, City of Martindale, and the Concession Group (SH 130). The warranty for this Motorola equipment ended in February of 2012. The proposed agreement covers maintenance, repairs and replacements for the radio system with a 24-hour response time, 7 days a week from October 2, 2020 through September 30, 2021. The cost of \$148,960 will be shared by all entities who

benefit from the radio system based on the number of radio units in service. The cost under the Motorola Agreement for Lockhart's 235 radios is \$62,879.26 for the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget period. Ms. Larison recommended approval. There was discussion.

E. DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF DARLON J. SOJAK AS MUNICIPAL COURT PRESIDING JUDGE.

Mr. Lewis stated that the City Council interviewed several individuals for the Municipal Court Presiding Judge position. Pursuant to City Charter, Section 4.04, the City Council appoints the Presiding Judge. Mr. Darlon J. Sojak is the candidate that the Council selected. An agreement is presented that reflects the terms of Mr. Sojak's acceptance to the Judge position. The agreement reflects that the Judge shall hold office for a two-year term, unless terminated earlier as provided in the Agreement. The Judge shall perform all duties and responsibilities of the Office of the Municipal Court Presiding Judge of the City. These duties and obligations include those contained under the City's Charter and Code of Ordinances, Texas Criminal Code, Texas Local Government Code, and other pertinent State and Federal statutes, and regulations. Municipal Court is often thought of as a traffic-court, but it has a broad range of authority that contributes to the missions of other City departments, to perform such obligations after hours in addition to performing magistrate duties as required by State law. The Agreement shall commence on August 4, 2020 and shall expire on August 3, 2022. The Agreement will automatically renew if the Council does not take action within 91 days following the expiration of the two-year period. There was discussion.

F. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET TO CITY COUNCIL AND SETTING TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AS THE DATES FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET.

Ms. Larison stated that once the budget is presented to Council, the City Charter requires that the City Council set a date for the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget. According to the State of Texas Local Government Code, Section 102.006(b), the governing body shall set the hearing for a date occurring after the 15th day after the proposed budget is filed with the City Secretary but before the governing body makes the tax levy. The date that the proposed budget was filed with the City of Lockhart's City Secretary was June 11, 2020. Ms. Larison stated that staff recommends setting the public hearing dates on August 18, 2020 and September 1, 2020.

G. DISCUSS THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER REGARDING REQUIRING COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE CITY TO REQUIRE FACIAL COVERING OF THE NOSE AND MOUTH OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS OF THE AGE OF 10 AND OLDER, AND ADDRESSING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, IF NECESSARY.

Mayor White stated that there was no action to be taken. The City of Lockhart continues to follow Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29, requiring face coverings.

RECESS: Mayor White announced that the Council would recess for a break at 7:21 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER.

Mayor Lew White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor White gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Mayor White requested citizens to address the Council. There were none.

ITEM 4. CONSENT AGENDA.

Councilmember McGregor made a motion to approve consent agenda items 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D. Councilmember Michelson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

The following are the consent agenda items that were approved:

- 4A: Approve minutes of the City Council meeting of July 21, 2020.
- 4B: Approve Addendum to Lease with Caldwell County Christian Ministries to add portions of the building at 901 Bois D'Arc Street formerly known as the Technology Center to their current lease for a duration of two years.
- 4C: Accept 3rd Quarter Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2020.
- 4D: Approve the Annual Service Agreement with Motorola, Inc., in the amount of \$148,960 of which \$62,879.63 is for the 238 City of Lockhart radios to cover maintenance, repairs, and replacement of the 700/800 mhz radio infrastructure system which supports radio communications for the City of Lockhart, Concessions Group, Caldwell County, City of Luling, and City of Martindale from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 with each entity paying its share of the costs based on the number of radios using the system according to the existing interlocal agreement and appointing the Mayor to sign the contract agreement. The amount reflected is the annual contracted 3% increase due to consumer price index for the current year.

ITEM 5-A. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF DARLON J. SOJAK AS MUNICIPAL COURT PRESIDING JUDGE.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to approve the Employment Agreement and appointment of Darlon J. Sojak as Lockhart Municipal Court Presiding Judge. Councilmember Michelson seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 5-B. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET TO CITY COUNCIL AND SETTING TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 AND TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AS THE DATES FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to set the public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 and Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Councilmember Westmoreland seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

ITEM 5-C. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION TO CONSIDER THE MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER REGARDING REQUIRING COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE CITY TO REQUIRE FACIAL COVERING OF THE NOSE AND MOUTH OF ALL EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS OF THE AGE OF 10 AND OLDER, AND ADDRESSING OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO COVID-19, IF NECESSARY.

Mayor White announced that there was no action to be taken. The City of Lockhart continues to follow Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29.

ITEM 5-D. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS OR COMMITTEES.

Mayor White requested appointments to boards or committees. There were none.

ITEM 6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT, PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION.

- Update on COVID-19 in Lockhart, Caldwell County.
- US Census update.
- Building Department Updates:
 - USDA Office remodel and expansion at 111 E. MLK, Jr. Ind. Blvd., formerly Margarita's Tortilla Factory.
 - Maple Park Senior Village at 1925 Clearfork Street- 56 unit senior living apartment complex.
 - Wal-Mart submitted plans for an Online Grocery Pickup project.
 - KB Home submitted seven building permit applications for new homes this month.
- Public Works Updates:
 - Drainage improvements were completed last week at the Animal Shelter to channel water offsite.
 - Parks Department continues to make improvements at the Municipal Burial Park such as leveling 120 cemetery plots.
 - Update on improvements being made to SH 130 bridge No. 36, and associated lane closures.
 - Solar radar speed feedback signs on US 183 near Summerside subdivision are operational.
- Library Updates:
 - Virtual summer reading club ended July 24 and it was very successful despite the pandemic.
 - Recordings with virtual entertainers were held throughout the summer which were posted on our website and youtube channel.
 - Curbside service continues to be successful.
 - Patrons are taking full advantage of our Interlibrary Loan services.
- November 3, 2020 Election Update: Candidate filing period for City Council races ends on August 17. Ballot position drawing will be held in City Secretary's office on August 24, 2020 at 10 am at City Hall. October 6 is last day to register to vote. Governor Abbott extended Early voting from October 13 thru October 30 (was October 18-30). Staff will return with an ordinance updating early voting hours soon in addition to listing Election Day polling locations.

ITEM 7. COUNCIL AND STAFF COMMENTS – ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Councilmember Westmoreland expressed condolences to the family of Doris Reed Dorris for their loss. He encouraged everyone to continue to wear face coverings and to continue social distancing.

Councilmember Mendoza expressed condolences to families that have lost a loved one and to the family of Genaro Luna for their loss. He thanked all City employees that work outside during the hot summer.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez expressed condolences to the families of Genaro Luna, Ruben Leos, Teresa Eureste Villalpando, Margie Ortiz Garcia, and Helen Lewis for this loss.

Councilmember McGregor encouraged everyone to continue to wear face coverings. She wished students, teachers, and school administrators the best in the new school year.

Councilmember Bryant commended citizens to following the face covering requirement. He encouraged everyone to continue to stay safe.

Councilmember Michelson encouraged everyone to continue to wear face coverings and to stay safe.

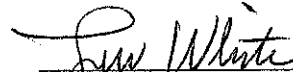
Mayor White expressed condolences to the families of Doris Dorris and Genaro Luna for their loss. He encouraged everyone to stay safe, to wear face coverings and to continue social distancing.

ITEM 8. ADJOURNMENT.


Mayor Pro-Tem Sanchez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Mendoza seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

PASSED and APPROVED this the 18th day of August 2020.

CITY OF LOCKHART


Lew White, Mayor

ATTEST:


Connie Constancio, TRMC
City Secretary

